



New Senior High Gym



Space Age in the Elementary School

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

TO THE BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Miss Mildred Stone
Mrs. Frank Galioto
Mr. Harold Kaplan
Mr. John Severs
Mr. George Welle, President

It is my pleasure to submit herewith my fourth annual report to the Board of Education. Such a document can reveal only the highlights of the activities carried on by nearly 8,000 students and more than 580 employees.

Whether it be the quiet courage shown during the Cuban crisis, the excitement of a championship game, the pleasure of a fine musical performance, or the challenge of a stimulating lesson well taught—the associations with the Bloomfield schools continue to be most rewarding. Our educational system reflects the interest of board members, the work of dedicated staff members, and the pride of the community.

Sincerely,
FRANK B. STOVER
Superintendent of Schools

July, 1963

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

The school year was especially marked by the beginning of construction on the new boys gymnasium for the Senior High School. The need for additional physical education facilities has been commented on by State and Regional evaluating teams for many years. When the new gymnasium has been completed, renovations on the old boys gymnasium to make it a second teaching station for girls will begin.

However, one of the problems caused by this new construction will be reduction in the outdoor play space for the Senior High School, even though the remaining space will lend itself well to tennis and volley ball courts. The construction of additional playing fields on Foley Field South and the possible acquisition of land adjacent to it are natural developmental steps in the physical education program. They should be considered within the immediate future.

As part of the building project in the high school, it has been necessary to install new electrical service which will be adequate to provide for the gymnasium and any additions or new services added to the high school.

It has been four years since my first report to the board concerning our needs for improvements to the Senior High School, and with the heavy enrollment in that building these needs have become even more apparent. During the past year we accommodated over 1900 pupils in a building designed for a little over 1600. We continued to have complaints about the inadequacy of our shop facilities, and we are forced to turn down boys who want to do further work in shop, electronics, or mechanical drawing. The Home

Economics facilities were inadequate decades ago, and for a severe contrast to the facilities in both junior high school. In instrumental music it is common to see children practicing on stairways, corridors, and storage areas, while we struggle to accommodate 110 in the band room which is a converted section of loft in the maintenance building.

Students still have to wear heavy sweaters in the biology rooms on cold winter mornings, and our physics facilities are purely makeshift affairs. We have no mechanical ventilation in the building. All these conditions warrant our serious consideration, not only because of the hindrance they provide for our program, but because we are to be re-evaluated by the Middle States Association in 1966.

Activities and Programs

It may be pointed out that Bloomfield High School Art Department still seems to motivate many pupils to follow careers in art. Of thirty-four senior students taking advanced art, thirteen are going on to higher education in art.

Our language laboratory has passed the experimental stage, and the teachers and students are participating in a well-organized functioning program. Our other electronic teaching aid, the Drivo-trainer, continues to attract both our own pupils and many visitors. It is interesting to note that one delegation flew from Switzerland to observe the equipment, while another contingent flew from North Carolina to make a similar observation. Our school has earned a reputation for having one of the best taught installations in the country.

Next year we are planning to introduce a course in General Business in the tenth year. This will provide students with an understanding of ordinary business operations and will meet an unfilled need for a large number of pupils.

Three matters related to college guidance are reported as new developments. There is considerably more interest on the part of pupil and parents in obtaining financial assistance. There are mounting fears on the part of pupils and parents, especially underclassmen, concerning college admission and an increased readiness on the part of a number of parents and pupils to use the services of the Admission Centers. There is new willingness by an increased number to seek colleges away from New England and the Middle Atlantic States.

A new course in experimental electronics attracted a number of boys, so much so that we shall not be able to accommodate the full demand for this course next year. Even though the quarters were cramped and makeshift, we noticed the enthusiasm with which the boys participated and the large amount of equipment they made for our laboratory. In our immediate residential area there is unquestioned



Senior High Drivo-trainer

ably a large demand for students motivated in this specialty, which we should attempt to fill by all means.

Another innovation this year was the introduction of an offset press. This has led to increased interest in graphic art work and has updated that course considerably. The instructor and the boys also worked to develop darkroom facilities in an adjacent storage area which would make the offset press practical.

It can now be stated that our advanced placement courses in English are beyond the experimental stage. Experience has indicated that the special work in the high school must begin earlier than the twelfth grade. As of this year, we have done eleventh grade work with special sections in the tenth grade, twelfth grade work in the eleventh grade, and college freshman work in the twelfth grade. Members of the class of 1962 who had this work have made outstanding records in sophomore college English.

For the first time three sections of Technical Physics were taught using the materials and approach recommended by the Physical Science and Study Committee (P.S.S.C.). The course was deemed completely successful by teachers and supervisor. Comments were also made by chemistry teachers on the great improvement resulting from the new chemistry laboratories.

During the year committees of teachers have been working on the revision of teaching guides for all science courses offered in the Senior High School. These should be completed by the end of next year. The next year the offerings in U. S. History will be modified somewhat so that the eleventh grade U. S. History I will cover only the period from the pre-Columbian world through World War I. U. S. History II will deal with recent American history and in problems in economics, government, etc. This is to allow more emphasis to be placed on the past four decades.

In October 1962 the language teachers of the three secondary schools met with possibility of introducing to the Bloomfield School System a six year foreign language program structured along sequential lines. Committees were organized to revise the course guides for all languages taught in the secondary schools. Great progress has been made and a special appropriation has been made for tapes and for text books to try to introduce logic and consistency into the language program. Next year the group will continue to work on Levels 3 and 4 of the six year program, having completed Levels 1 and 2.

There is a rather noteworthy interest in teaching as a career on the part of our students. This year we had 30 enrolled in the sophomore Future Teachers of America, 45 in the Junior F.T.A. and 71 in the Senior F.T.A. This means that better than one out of ten graduating seniors planned to enter the teaching profession.

For the school year 1962-1963 the American Field Service Program has been a success. Our first exchange student, Per Anderssen from Oslo, Norway, arrived in America in August, 1962. He was an active member of the senior class, playing varsity soccer and participating in dramatic activities. His classmates dedicated their yearbook to him. One indica-

tion of success is the great desire of the pupils to have another exchange pupil next year, and so we shall be welcoming a young lady from the Philippines.

In the closing months of the year some team teaching was introduced in the Social Studies Department, when instructors particularly versed in certain topics addressed combined groups of classes. The department spoke well of the venture.

The Temac program, a programmed instruction text in Algebra I, was used for classes in the Senior High School this past year. The Department Chairman and teachers reported that they believed the program was not as satisfactory as a good text combined with a good instructor. However, it may have certain further uses for students who have been absent or who are ill or need additional work. Next year we plan to use it as a supplementary aid.

NORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The most unusual thing at North Junior High School was the arrival of Miss Patricia Hooper from Surrey, England, who took the place of Miss Tomi Masui for a year, while Miss Masui assumed Miss Hooper's position. She not only contributed to the friendly understanding of pupils and teachers, but brought some delightful English music into the life of the school. We are happy to know that she will marry a Bloomfield resident shortly and will return to our community.

At both North and South Junior High Schools a ninth grade business training course was instituted. Pupils have been receiving five periods of typing a week and have had the traditional ninth grade mathematics course changed into a business mathematics course. These groups will take second year typing at Senior High School and will be further advanced in their work than was previously possible.

The Social Studies Department sponsored a staff meeting for working with slow learners, bringing in an outside speaker who has been developing special materials commercially. Further attention was also given to in-service training on the theme "Teaching About Communism." The mathematics department instituted regular morning remedial sessions for any students interested. All teachers in the mathematics department voluntarily participated and gave extra help to pupils between 7:45 and 8:15 A. M.

The first special class for mentally educable retarded had a successful year in North Junior High School. The pupils are well accepted by both students and teachers and participated widely in the life of the school. Another class will be opened at North Junior High School next year, due to the fact that we shall concentrate older tuition pupils at this school.

This year for the first time a number of especially qualified students in the ninth grade were allowed to take five major subjects. The homework load was carefully controlled, and it appears from its success that this type of organization will be continued in the future. In the advanced seventh and eighth grade groups additional work on the newer mathematics has been used to supplement the mathematics curriculum. The school believes that this enables teachers to take advantage of the newer approaches and still retain the valuable aspects of traditional mathematic.

One of our English staff used the English 2600, a programmed text book, with one class of students. By comparing test results of this group and similar groups, she arrived at the conclusion that there was no special advantage in using programmed instruction. However, it should be noted that the students in the program enjoyed it and a large number desired to purchase the text.

For the first time track became an intramural sport at the school. It proved to be quite popular and should stimulate interest in the Senior High School track and cross country programs.

SOUTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

At South Junior High School the outstanding event of the year was the evaluation of the school by the New Jersey State Department of Education. All of the staff embarked on

a self-study of the school by organizing into committees which worked for many months. The evaluation was culminated by a visit from Dr. Twichell, County Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Adams of the State Department of Education. They complimented the staff and administration on a remarkably fine job of self study and the excellent program they observed. Their added comment was that many junior high schools throughout the state could gain much by a visitation at South Junior High School.

There has been some experimentation in non-graded groups of children with limited ability working in certain subjects. While apparently successful beyond expectation, progress will be carefully evaluated each year.

The new electrical shop began operation for the first time and was received enthusiastically by pupils. The evident interest and application of those enrolled indicate that this type of program should be expanded in Bloomfield.

Since several members of the faculty were especially trained in reading, selected groups of seventh and eighth grade pupils were rotated in the language assignments so they could do special grades of reading at a time. Again, pupils who received the reading instructions seemed to enjoy it and profit by it.

For several years English teachers at South Junior have been studying better ways of teaching English grammar and writing to pupils. This past year several classes were using a text concentrated on "Patterns of English" rather than the traditional grammatical analysis. The instructors reported unusual progress in grammar and writing, and this approach will be extended to other classes.

In the Art Department the two teachers did some team teaching with larger groups, concentrating on their own specialties. Pupils and observers reported this technique to be extremely effective.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Activities in Bloomfield elementary schools were many and varied. Relatively few highlights can be presented. The types of activity could perhaps best be illustrated by some of the practical non-academic experiences participated in by Brookdale School children. Here, at different times, the four different kindergartens prepared their own lunches; children in the grades watched the incubation of chickens, yeast cultures growing, caterpillars spinning, and plants developing from seeds. There was a Fire Department demonstration behind the school. Children practiced taping lessons in reading for their parents to hear. Others made dioramas, original maps, puppets or wove cloth in ancient fashion. There were field trips to zoos, fire houses, ferry boats, the Statue of Liberty, Morristown, United Nations, West Point and the Planetarium. These supplements to the basic fundamentals of instruction characterize much of elementary education in Bloomfield schools.

At Berkeley and Oak View Schools a series of meetings were held to demonstrate to parents the methods of teaching reading employed by the schools. Materials distributed for parents included such items as, "Factors Effecting a Child's Achievement in Reading," "Ways Parents Can Help a Modern Reading Program," and "One Hundred Best Books for Children." In most of the schools reading consultants discussed with the faculty ways to improve reading and the study habits of children. At Carteret School this was followed up by a joint parent-teacher promotion of selected paperback books by the Home and School Association, and more than 1,000 were sold.

Both Carteret and Forest Glen Schools report less mobility in their student population. Another kind of mobility was mentioned in the case of Brookside and Franklin Schools. This had to do with the number of regular and special teachers new to the school: nine in Brookside and ten in Franklin. Fortunately, this condition will not be repeated another year.

Watessing School held its science fair for pupils and parents which was quite successful. Here the faculty also reported favorably on the new emphasis on map skills and

geography in fourth grade. The Fairview staff in preparing a new field trip guide. Demarest School is planning to evaluate the basic reading series. Oak View staff had a guidance workshop and concentrated much of their other attention on Social Studies. One Oak View student received honorable mention in the state-wide D.A.R. essay contest. The Home and School Association is planning to provide a master antenna for the school as a forerunner for greater use of educational television.

One of our busiest elementary principals was the principal of Carteret who visited nearly every elementary school faculty to discuss new approaches to elementary school mathematics.

The Director of Testing spoke at a number of faculty meetings on I. Q. testing and other types of ability tests. Next year we hope to give some attention town-wide to all grades to evaluate teacher testing and to place interpretation of results in the proper perspective.

SPECIAL SERVICES

At George Morris School a film slide package was prepared to show the program of the school to civic organizations, as well as parents in the town. It has been enthusiastically received by all who have seen it, especially those who are particularly interested in special education. Dr. Willis, the principal, served as the first chairman of the Essex County Roundtable on Special Education. Next year a new basic reading series will be introduced into the school, the first scientifically designed to assist mentally retarded educable children.

During the past year we had our second experimental program in speech therapy at George Morris School. While previous professional opinion held that speech therapy was not substantially beneficial to mentally retarded children, we have not found this to be true in our two years of experience. Not only are the students and parents grateful for the additional attention, but we have found that general improvement takes place.

The young trainable group which meets after school at George Morris has also received considerable acclaim from the Association for Retarded Children, State Supervisors and others. The success of this pilot technique is in large part due to the dedication of the instructors and their ingenuity in designing learning devices for children who are thus handicapped.

The Coordinator of Health, Physical Education and Safety reports a stepped-up campaign on anti-tobacco education for both junior and senior high schools. A workshop on lung cancer featuring a distinguished physician was held for the school nurses and other personnel teaching health.

The Identograph Program progressed to the elementary schools. So far a total of more than 3,000 school children have participated in the program.

Musical activities featured a workshop in the teaching of music for third and fourth grade classroom teachers, who embarked on a new musical reading program this year. A similar workshop for fifth and sixth grade teachers is planned for next year. For the first time there was a mingling of elementary and secondary assignment for instrumental teachers, which proved feasible and desirable. North Junior High School, through its student council, provided funds for the purchase of a new organ which should be a valuable addition to the musical life of the school.

The elementary science coordinator reports that the new teaching guides for science in grades four through six are now in operation and that the teachers' committee has completed guides for grades one through three. Next year a science guide for kindergarten teachers will be undertaken. The coordinator also prepared a course of study for students at the George Morris School, who look forward eagerly to their science lessons. Another future project will be a guide for science field trip for elementary schools.

While the elementary library program was handicapped somewhat due to the long illness of the consultant, we note some remarkable statistics. Nearly 180 parents served as

library helpers in the ten schools. The average circulation exceeded 22 books per pupil, and the total collection now amounts to more than 28,000 books.

The Industrial Arts Department has completed a handbook on safety policies for shop which should be of great benefit to the health and safety of pupils. During the year a guide for elementary fine arts education was completed. The task ahead will be to orient elementary teachers to the guide.

The Child Guidance Department completed three brochures: "Criteria For Referral To Child Guidance Department," "Parent-Teacher Conferences-Guidelines for Parents," "School Records As A Resource For Elementary Teachers." The psychologist and social workers report a distressing shortage of facilities for children needing psychiatric and psychological assistance beyond the limits provided by the school. Existing child guidance agencies have long backlogs of children awaiting help. It becomes particularly frustrating for both the school and the home to discover a need for services which cannot be provided. This is not merely a local problem, but one which must be solved in the region and at the county level. The administration intends to press forward to seek relief for this situation.

Speech classes during the past year were conducted on a different basis, as most children were seen twice a week as recommended by our consultant in speech pathology. About 200 children were carried as active cases and about 80 of these were discharged as corrected or adequate. This is an unusually high rate of recovery and speaks well for the reorganization of the program.

Our Home and School Counselors report that the problem of the neglected child is proving to be the most difficult phase of their work. Up to the present time there has been a delay of four to five months in bringing cases to trial at the Juvenile Court. It is hoped that the appointment of additional judges will help alleviate this critical condition.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

One of the highlights of curriculum development this past year was a workshop held last October. While elementary teachers were discussing the teaching of music reading and the new physical education guide, secondary teachers met with Dr. Thomas Robinson, President of Glassboro State College, who addressed them on the topic, "Recent Trends In Secondary Education." This was followed by roundtable discussions of his presentation.

Last July the Bloomfield Museum was turned over to the Board of Education and is housed temporarily in Brookside School. It will be put into more permanent quarters when available, but will still be accessible to both public and parochial schools in the town. Mrs. Virginia Ambler was appointed as the chairman of an Advisory Committee to screen and accept new gifts.

Accommodating student teachers for their practice teaching has become a large operation in Bloomfield schools. Annually 70 or more serve their apprenticeship here, and benefit from the experience of our own staff members, who contribute in this instance beyond the call of duty. Aside from the students from the six state colleges, we received undergraduates from Bloomfield College, Caldwell College, Douglass College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rutgers University, Seton Hall University and Upsala College.

Through the efforts of the elementary building coordinators of Audio-Visual Education the first film strip catalogue for elementary schools was completed and made available to the teachers in each building. Approximately 1500 titles are represented, each containing an evaluation of the grade level and pertinence of the material.

Department Chairmen and teachers of mathematics in the ninth grade were given three days of released time to meet in order to plan a coordinated program of mathematics in the ninth and tenth grade. As a result, the three secondary schools are in agreement as to the content and scope of this work, and consistency of text adoption and units of study will result. The emphasis of the course will be a combina-

tion of the fields of algebra and geometry, spread out over a two year period.

ENROLLMENT

Our local enrollment has now reached the same point as when we had Cedar Grove pupils enrolled as tuition students. There are, however, no immediate prospects of sharp increases in the school year. In 1963-64 we shall have to accommodate kindergarten children formerly served by the Sacred Heart School. These children can be absorbed in additional sessions at three schools. Our pre-school survey was unsuccessful in terms of total coverage, but revealing enough to show that there are no major population explosions ahead for Bloomfield schools.

RECRUITMENT

During the past school year the total of eighty-four new teachers was required, a record number for Bloomfield. At the Senior High School one-quarter of the staff changed. For the coming year the number of new faces will pass the sixty mark, although we have not had the flight of teachers to other towns for salary reasons which we suffered previously. Aside from usual causes, we are beginning to lose teachers to join college faculties, to teach abroad, or to go into graduate work. The problem of hiring experienced teachers to fill vacancies is becoming more difficult each year. Competition for such persons is extremely keen.

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCHOOLS

1962 - 1963

Two Chemistry Laboratories in the Senior High School were rehabilitated, modernized, and re-equipped.

An instructional unit in Electronics was installed in Room 101 in the Senior High School.

The Senior High School auditorium stage lighting switchboard was replaced with a new unit. A modern stage lighting system was installed.

The front curtains and the cyclorama in the Senior High School auditorium were replaced.

At South Junior High School Room 12 was converted from a conventional classroom to an Electronics Shop.

The public address system in the South Junior High School was completely rehabilitated and modernized.

New pupil toilet facilities were installed at George Morris School.

Vinyl asbestos flooring was installed in eight classrooms and two corridors at Berkeley School.

Interior painting was done at George Morris, Fairview, and Oak View Schools.

A new roof was installed on the School Administration Building and the exterior of this building was painted.

Safety stair treads were installed at Brookside and Franklin Schools.

The replacement of worn out pupil furniture was continued at all levels where required.

The construction of a new gymnasium at the Senior High School was begun in April, 1963.

BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1962 - 1963

Total Average Enrollment	7,663
School Buildings Operated	16
Supervisors and Principals	19
Teachers—Full-time	397
Part-time	28
Other Employees (full and part-time).....	164
Day School Cost Per Pupil in Total	
Average Enrollment	\$542.48
Day School Expenditures	
(without new buildings, etc.)	\$4,157,029.07